

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 03786 071800Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----080148Z 059163 /73

R 071645Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1308
INFO AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T LONDON 03786

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, YS
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH
PDRY

REF: A) SANA 700 B) JIDDA 1549 C) STATE 45355

1. WITH RESPECT TO THE ADVISABILITY OF POLICY GROUNDS
OF THE US AGREEING TO RESTORE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
IF PDRY SO DESIRES, WE DEFER TO THE CURRENT VIEWS OF
EMBASSIES SANA, JIDDA, AND MUSCAT. ON BALANCE, WE ARE
INCLINED TO AGREE WITH THE RATIONALE SET FORTH IN
REFTEL B. WE ARE ALSO IMPRESSED BY THE ADVICE GIVEN
US BY THE FCO NOT TO HURRY (LONDON 3720).

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE OPERATIONAL AND PRACTICAL AS-
PECTS OF REOPENING AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADEN, WE DO
HAVE A PRONOUNCED CONCERN. THE BRITISH HAVE SERVED AS
OUR PROTECTING POWER, A THANKLESS ROLE, EVER SINCE THE
BRITISH EMBASSY IN ADEN HELPED OUR EMBASSY EVACUATE
SECRET

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WHEN THE LATTER WAS EXPELLED WITH THE SHORTEST NOTICE
IN 1969. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE HAVE AN OBLIOA-
TION (OUT OF SHEER DIPLOMATIC GOOD MANNERS, FOR ONE
THING) TO KEEP THE BRITISH INFORMED OF ANY CONTACTS WE
HAVE WITH PDRY OUTSIDE OF BRITISH-PDRY CHANNELS. WE
SHOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER USING THE BRITISH AS A
FORMAL CHANNEL (ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AN EXCLUSIVE

ONE) FOR CONVEYING TO PDRY THE US POSITION ON THE POSSIBLE RESTORATION OF RELATIONS. THERE IS SOME QUESTION IN OUR MINDS AS TO WHETHER US SHOULD SEND A TEAM TO ADEN BEFORE RESTORATION HAS BEEN DECIDED SOON, SINCE WE MIGHT BE MADE TO LOOK LIKE SUPPLICANTS. HOWEVER, IF WE DO SEND A TEAM TO ADEN TO DISCUSS THE MODALITIES OF RESTORING RELATIONS, IT WOULD BE NORMAL TO EXPECT THE AMERICAN TEAM TO USE THE BRITISH EMBASSY AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS BASE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION WE WISH TO STRESS OUR ENDORSEMENT OF THE RECOMMENDATION IN JIDDA 1549 THAT "AT AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM WE MUST BE SURE THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN ADEN WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL DIPLOMATIC CUSTOM". WE SHOULD, FOR EXAMPLE, INSIST THAT ANY US PRESENCE ESTABLISHED IN ADEN EXPLICITLY BE GUARANTEED ALL THE RIGHTS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS.

SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

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